



WILLIAM T FUJIOKA
Chief Executive Officer

County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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May 16, 2008

To: Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, Chair
Supervisor Gloria Molina
Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky
Supervisor Don Knabe
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. T. Fujioka", is written over the printed name and title.

Board of Supervisors
GLORIA MOLINA
First District

YVONNE B. BURKE
Second District

ZEV YAROSLAVSKY
Third District

DON KNABE
Fourth District

MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH
Fifth District

SACRAMENTO UPDATE

The following update reports on the status of a County-opposed Los Angeles City ordinance regulating hospital discharge of homeless patients, an upcoming hearing of the Senate Select Committee on the Los Angeles County Health Care Crisis, and County advocacy legislation.

Status of County-Opposed Los Angeles City Council Ordinance

On May 14, 2008, the Los Angeles City Council tentatively approved a proposed City ordinance, by a vote of 12 to 1, which will impose a misdemeanor or financial penalty on hospitals for improper discharges of homeless patients. Carol Meyer of the Department of Health Services (DHS) testified in opposition to the proposed ordinance. Jim Lott from the Hospital Association of Southern California also testified in opposition to the proposed ordinance, expressing concern that it could jeopardize Federal funding received by hospitals. Councilman Tom LaBonge cast the dissenting vote, indicating that he could not support a health care related ordinance that is opposed by Los Angeles County, which oversees the area's public hospitals. Councilman LaBonge suggested that the County had not been appropriately consulted on this issue, and recommended that the City identify a "Health Liaison" with the County for health and other issues that are of mutual concern. Councilwoman Janice Hahn strongly supported this recommendation.

City Attorney staff indicated that to date, no problems had been identified with County discharged patients. This statement was contrary to the opening declaration by Councilwoman Jan Perry, who cited a case she personally witnessed in which a patient stated that he had been discharged from LAC+USC. However, no contact with DHS was made by the City regarding this instance or any similar case. The City Attorney cited the work his office has undertaken with Kaiser Permanente on hospital discharge protocols. Kaiser Permanente protocols that have been recently implemented are based on Los Angeles County discharge policies that have been in place at County hospitals.

DHS staff indicate that the Department will work with the City to review the County's protocols and ensure that the County has all safeguards in place to meet the intent of this ordinance. As the ordinance was not unanimously approved, it will return to the City Council next week for a second hearing.

Senate Select Committee on Los Angeles County Health Care Crisis

The Senate Select Committee on the Los Angeles County Health Care Crisis, which is chaired by Senator Mark Ridley-Thomas, will hold a hearing in Los Angeles on Thursday, May 22, 2008, between the hours of 3:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m., to discuss options to re-open Martin Luther King, Jr. - Harbor Hospital. The hearing will be held at the California Endowment Center for Healthy Communities, 1000 North Alameda Street, Los Angeles. County officials have been invited to testify.

Status of County-Sponsored Legislation

In our Sacramento Update of May 9, 2008, we reported that a press conference for **AB 2058 (Levine, Brownley and Davis)**, County-sponsored legislation related to plastic carryout bags, was tentatively scheduled for Friday May 16, 2008 in the Los Angeles area. The latest information indicates that the press conference will now be held May 17, 2008 at 10:00 a.m. at the Von's supermarket in Malibu.

County-sponsored AB 2607 (Davis), as amended on April 16, 2008, which would authorize the counties of Los Angeles and Orange to participate in a pilot program to permit the electronic filing of Statements of Economic Interest (Form 700), from January 1, 2009 to January 1, 2012, passed the Assembly on May 15, 2008 by a vote of 70 to 0, and now proceeds to the Senate.

County-cosponsored SB 579 (Wiggins), which would authorize the Board of Supervisors to permit reinstatement of firefighters mandatorily retired upon reaching the age of 60 on or after April 1, 2007, received concurrence in Assembly amendments on

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the Senate Floor on Thursday, May 15, 2008. SB 579 now proceeds to the Governor. As an urgency measure, it would become immediately effective upon the Governor's signature.

Status of County Advocacy Legislation

County-opposed AB 2702 (Nuñez), which would allow standby emergency departments that are not part of the 9-1-1 ambulance receiving system to access Maddy Emergency Medical Services funds, was placed on the Assembly Appropriations Committee's Suspense File on May 14, 2008.

We will continue to keep you advised.

WTF:GK:MAL
DD:IGA:mp

c: All Department Heads
Legislative Strategist
Local 721
Coalition of County Unions
California Contract Cities Association
Independent Cities Association
League of California Cities
City Managers Associations
Buddy Program Participants